

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JSEYMOUR
APPROVED BY OES:DR. GANLEY
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
NSF:DR. ZALAR
OES/APT/SEP:RILLING

-----077901 272341Z /70

O 272236Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TGEN, PL, US

SUBJECT: COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER: GANLEY DEMARCHE
TO SPASOWSKI

REF: WARSAW 3506

1. OES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY CALLED IN
POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI AT 9:00 A.M. ON APRIL 27 TO
DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE COPERNICUS
ASTRONOMICAL CENTER (CAC). DR. GANLEY BEGAN BY SAYING
THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS REGARDING THE CAC THAT HE HOPES
CAN BE STRAIGHTENED OUT IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS BEFORE THEY
GET TO THE CONGRESS. HE EXPLAINED THAT A FEW WEEKS AGO WE
HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT PART OF THE CAC IS BEING OCCUPIED
BY A POLISH SPACE RESEARCH AGENCY. THESE WERE UNCONFIRMED
RUMORS, HOWEVER, SO WE ASKED AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TO SEE
PAN SECRETARY KACZMAREK TO ASCERTAIN IF THESE ALLEGATIONS
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ARE CORRECT. KACZMAREK CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR YESTER-
DAY, APRIL 26, THAT A PORTION OF THE CAC MAY ALREADY BE
OCCUPIED BY POLISH SPACE RESEARCHERS AND THAT MORE ARE TO
MOVE IN SOON. DR. GANLEY EXPLAINED THAT THIS NEWS HAS
CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN HERE.

2. FIRST, IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE NSF-PAN GRANT

AGREEMENT. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE POLISH SPACE AGENCY DOES NOT DEAL WITH ASTRONOMY, BUT RATHER WITH SPACE AND SPACE PHYSICS. THE CAC UNDER TERMS OF THE NSF GRANT, HOWEVER, IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEDICATED FULLY TO ASTRONOMY.

3. SECOND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH POLISH SPACE RESEARCH IS DONE IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND THIS LEADS TO THE PROBABILITY THAT THIS FACILITY WOULD BECOME A CLASSIFIED CENTER. THIS MEANS, IN PARTICULAR, THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ON THE BASIC SCIENCE OF ASTRONOMY.

4. MOREOVER, THIS PROBLEM COMES TO A HEAD NOW BECAUSE BOTH DOCTORS ATKINSON, DIRECTOR OF THE NSF, AND HANDLER, PRESIDENT OF THE NAS, WERE PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN A MAY 24 CEREMONY FOR THE OPENING OF THE CAC. DR. GANLEY SAID HE HAD TALKED TO BOTH MEN YESTERDAY AND THEY CONFIRMED THAT, UNLESS THE SITUATION IS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, THEY WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY. DR. GANLEY NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE, AND EXPRESSED A HOPE THAT IT CAN BE AVOIDED.

5. CONTINUING, DR. GANLEY EXPLAINED THAT ANOTHER
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PROBLEM IS THAT THE NSF FEELS THAT IT MUST REPORT "RATHER SOON" TO CONGRESS, BECAUSE CONGRESS PROVIDED SPECIAL DISPENSATION TO MAKE POSSIBLE NSF FUNDING FOR SUCH A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. (SPASOWSKI INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S INVOLVEMENT.) DR. GANLEY OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE IF THIS MATTER HAD TO BE PRESENTED UNRESOLVED TO THE CONGRESS, STRESSING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SOLVE IT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

6. DR. GANLEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEM HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI BY DR. ODELL, AN ASTRONOMER WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL AS ADVISER TO NSF AND NAS ON THE CAC PROJECT. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, DR. GANLEY TOLD SPASOWSKI THAT WE VERY MUCH HOPE HE WILL BRING OUR CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR DRS. HANDLER AND ATKINSON TO ATTEND THE CAC OPENING CEREMONY AND ALSO TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR US TO PRESENT THIS MATTER TO THE CONGRESS.

7. DR. GANLEY FURTHER INFORMED SPASOWSKI THAT AMBASSADOR

SCHAUFEELE WILL ALSO PROBABLY SEE SCIENCE MINISTER KALISKI ABOUT THIS TODAY OR TOMORROW. GANLEY AFFIRMED THAT WE HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR THE CAC, NOT JUST FOR US-POLISH COOPERATION BUT ALSO AS A PROJECT OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE. THEREFORE, WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY MISUSE OF THE CENTER AND WE HOPE IT CAN BE PREVENTED.

8. SPASOWSKI REPLIED THAT HE WILL CONVEY IMMEDIATELY AND AS EXACTLY AS POSSIBLE OUR CONCERNS. HE SAID THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS HEARD ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY. HE ASKED IF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE IN HIS TALK WITH MR. KACZMAREK HAD CONVEYED ALL OF THE POINTS JUST NOW MADE BY DR. GANLEY. DR. GANLEY RESPONDED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD SPOKEN MORE GENERALLY AND HAD NOT GONE
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SO FAR, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE QUESTION OF THE ATTENDANCE OF DRS. ATKINSON AND HANDLER AT THE CEREMONY. ADDING THAT KACZMAREK HAD PROMISED TO WRITE A LETTER OF EXPLANATION TO DR. ATKINSON, DR. GANLEY POINTED OUT THAT ONE REASON PEOPLE HERE ARE SO UPSET IS THAT ALL THIS WAS DONE WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATIONS WHATSOEVER WITH THE NSF.

9. SPASOWSKI AGAIN PROMISED TO CONVEY EVERYTHING DR. GANLEY HAD SAID, ALONG WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SATISFY THE AMERICAN SIDE, BECAUSE POLAND SINCERELY WANTS CONTINUED US-POLISH COOPERATION IN SCIENCE.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT URGENTLY WITH MINISTER KALISKI TO REINFORCE DR. GANLEY'S DEMARCHE TO SPASOWSKI, STRESS

A. OUR DESIRE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

B. THE POSITION OF DOCTORS ATKINSON AND HANDLER THAT THEY CANNOT ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY UNLESS IT IS RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

C. NSF'S OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO CONGRESS SOON IF WE CANNOT RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF THE CAC.

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